



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q54404

Kaname MIWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/313,184

Group Art Unit: 1743

Confirmation No.: 3561

Examiner: Ta Hsung Tung

Filed: May 18, 1999

For: SENSOR ELEMENT AND GAS SENSOR

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith. These documents were cited in an Office Action dated February 24, 2003 in a corresponding Japanese patent application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under § 1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/313,184

U.S. Patent 5,348,630 (of record) corresponds to Japanese Patent Application laid-open Nos. 2-147853 and 2-147854.

JP 61-97754 discloses a type of sensor having a pair of electrodes formed on opposite sides of an oxygen-ion conductive solid electrolyte substrate, but not a flat limiting-current-type sensor. In a corresponding Japanese patent application, the Japanese Examiner cited JP 61-97754 as disclosing that the area of the negative electrode differs from the area of the positive electrode, thereby lowering the element resistance of the flat limiting-current-type sensor and thus improving measurement accuracy. However, the sensor in JP 61-97754 is not a flat limiting-current-type sensor.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 21, 2003